

CHILD DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2018

This report is submitted to the Governor and General Assembly in accordance with Iowa Code Section 256A.3(8).

Shared Visions Programs are state-funded, high-quality programs for children with risk factors and their families. The Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC), which is comprised of state and local agency representatives, advises and assists the Department of Education regarding the administration and implementation of these programs. The primary risk factor for eligibility is defined as being a member of a low-income family at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for parent support programs and 130 percent for preschool programs. Secondary risk factors include having developmental delays; being born with a biological risk or to a parent under age 18; being in foster care or homeless; residing in a household where a parent or guardian has not completed high school, has been identified as a substance abuser or chronically mentally ill, is illiterate, incarcerated, or an abuser.

Impact of Reduced Funding on Grantees

The following are just a few statements reported by grantees:

- *"We've had to reduce the number of children being served by ten."*
- *"There will be a reduction from 1.0 Family Advocate to a 0.33 position; reduced services include parent trainings, family goal setting, and community referrals."*
- *"Classrooms will close for 7-8 weeks in the summer instead of remaining a full-year program."*
- *"Cut this year will be 78 hours of summer enrichment and transportation."*
- *"Professional development opportunities and program supplies will be cut."*

*See page 4 for more information.

FY18 STATE FUNDING

Appropriation	\$7,237,071
Shared Visions Parent Support	\$709,361
Shared Visions Preschool	\$6,527,710

**In FY18, grantees experienced a reduction in funds of approximately 15%.*

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Data shows Shared Visions Programs make an impact on children's growth and learning (see page 3 for more information). Comprehensive early childhood services vital to children and families who are at risk are provided, and community collaborations offer access to needed resources and services. An example from a current Shared Visions program is below.

A mom and her son came to our community to escape an abusive relationship. Our Shared Visions preschool lead teacher and Parents as Teachers representative visited the family at their home. They discovered that the mom and 4-year-old son had no beds or furniture and very minimal kitchen supplies. They were sleeping on a carpeted concrete floors. Our staff put the mom in contact with some resources and she was able to get some beds, bedding and furniture for the apartment. She also found some cooking utensils and a kitchen table. Our teacher was able to connect her with a mobile food pantry. They are much more settled now and are able to access food and cook for themselves. The 4-year-old boy attended our full-day Shared Visions preschool program and is now thriving and ready to attend kindergarten in the fall.

SHARED VISIONS PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

“QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FROM BIRTH TO AGE FIVE, COUPLED WITH PARENT COACHING, SUCH AS HOME VISITATION PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS AND TEEN MOTHERS, HAS PROVEN TO BE EFFECTIVE AND WARRANTS MORE INVESTMENT.”

(Heckman, 2012)¹

Shared Visions Parent Support Programs provide services for families with:

- an income below **125 percent of the poverty level**, and
- children with risk factors and **ages birth to five**, with priority given to programs serving families with children ages birth to three.

In FY18, six Shared Visions Parent Support Programs were awarded grants in five counties. All grantees were validated through external evaluation to meet standards of high quality by earning the Iowa Family Support Credential.

SERVICES IN FY18

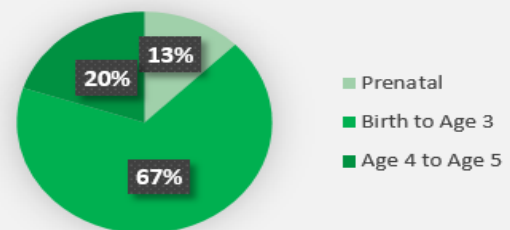
- Served **849** families with **993** children,
- Conducted **5,521** home visits,
- Offered **2,665** group based parent education meetings.

*Reported totals for home visits and group-based parent education meetings may also include services supported through additional funding sources.

- **205** eligible families remained on a waiting list (almost **25% of total families** served)

Of the 993 children served, grantees reported 125 were served prenatally, 670 children from birth to three years old, and 198 children were four to five years of age.

Percent of Children Served By Age in FY18



Shared Visions Parent Support Programs also assisted in **identifying children in need of early intervention services** provided through Iowa’s Early ACCESS system.

- A total of 65 children received early intervention/early childhood special education services.
- 43% of children were identified after program enrollment.

Services offered focus on multiple areas including:



Grantees reported a total of **\$451,621** as in-kind support during the FY18 grant year. These additional funds were used to maintain quality programming and cover the costs of items such as salaries, parent education, and other services not covered by the grant. Sources of in-kind varied and included community supports, federal dollars, and other state funding sources. This is a **64%** match to the total grant.

SHARED VISIONS PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

“WE KNOW THAT PRESCHOOL CAN

PROVIDE THE DEVELOPMENTALLY STIMULATING EXPERIENCES THAT MANY CHILDREN GROWING UP IN POVERTY LACK. THE EVIDENCE IS INCONTROVERTIBLE.”

(Lamy, 2013)²

Providing high quality, comprehensive services to children with risk factors is a distinguishing characteristic of Shared Visions Preschool Programs. Eligible children are:

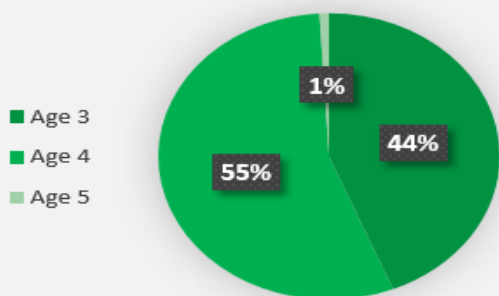
- members of a family with an income below **130 percent of the poverty level**, or identified as having other risk factors, and
- **ages three to five years.**

SERVICES IN FY18

- **67** grants awarded across **37** counties
- Enrolled **1,331** children; **93%** based on income level
- **13%** of children received early childhood education services through an IEP, **52%** were identified after enrollment
- **100%** of grantees maintained accreditation through NAEYC, the national standard of highest quality for early childhood programs
- **538** income-eligible children remained on a waiting list (**40% of total enrollment** and **10% increase** from the previous year)

Of the total children enrolled, 584 were age three, 735 were age four, and 12 were age five.

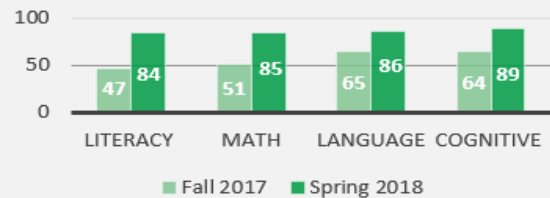
Percent of Children Served By Age



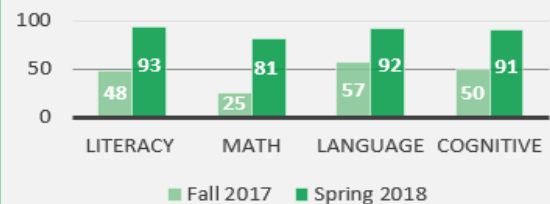
During FY18, children’s knowledge, skills, and behaviors met the range of expected growth. Additionally, the **percent of children meeting or exceeding expectations greatly increased** over the course of the year.

OUTCOMES

Percent of Three-Year-Olds Meeting or Exceeding Age Expectations

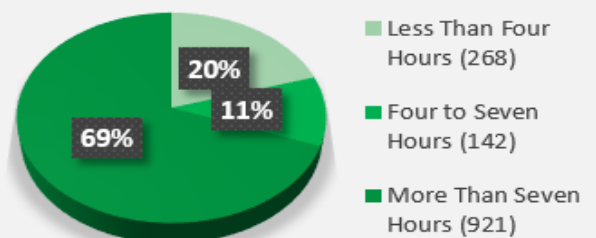


Percent of Four-Year-Olds Meeting or Exceeding Age Expectations



The majority of children received **seven or more hours of programming per day** due to collaborative relationships in the community which included extended preschool services or wrap-around child care.

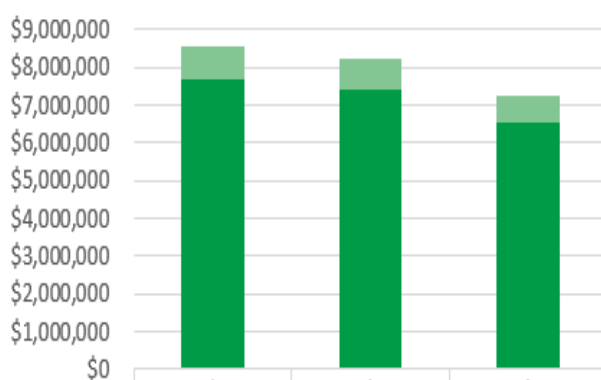
Enrollment By Hours Per Day



Grantees reported **\$3,917,338** as in-kind support used to support costs not covered by the grant during the FY18 grant year. These additional funds supported items such as salaries and benefits, instructional supplies, equipment, operational costs, and staff training. Sources of in-kind were vast and included community donations, federal dollars, and other state funding. This is a **60%** match to the total grant.

FUNDING TRENDS

Funding Trends



■ Parent Support Funding (6 grants)	\$836,752	\$805,373	\$709,361
■ Preschool Funding (67 grants)	\$7,699,988	\$7,406,426	\$6,527,710

■ Preschool Funding (67 grants) ■ Parent Support Funding (6 grants)

IMPACT OF REDUCED FUNDING

- Fewer children and families who are at risk receiving services
- Loss of positions or reduction in staff hours and salaries
- Reduced number of hours and days of service
- Fewer comprehensive services such as transportation, parent education, and community referrals
- Fewer funds for instructional materials and equipment
- Fewer opportunities for professional learning and staff training
- Waiting lists have increased

RECOMMENDATIONS

In review of the program data and the reported impact from reduced funding, the Child Development Coordinating Council recommends the following:

- Consider resources needed to restore programming to full capacity as aligned with the original grant awards.
- Increase access and duration of services for families and children with risk factors to improve child and family outcomes.
- Explore opportunities for mixed-delivery programs to meet family and community needs.
- Improve services for diverse families and children to address Iowa's growing diversity.
- Maintain accreditation status in order to enhance overall program quality.
- Increase administrative capacity and awareness for leadership and advocacy in early childhood programming and services.
- Strengthen Area Education Agencies' connections to support all types of programs.

¹ Heckman, J. (2012). *The Heckman Equation: Invest in Early Childhood Development: Reduce Deficits, Strengthen the Economy*. Pritzker Children's Initiative. Retrieved from [The Heckman Equation website](#).

² Lamy, C. (2013, May). How Preschool Fights Poverty. *Educational Leadership*. 70(8), 32-36.